OPINION 1725

Meladema Laporte, 1835 (Insecta, Coleoptera): conserved

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the generic name *Scutopterus* Dejean, 1833 is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The name *Meladema* Laporte, 1835 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Meladema coriacea* Laporte, 1835, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *coriacea* Laporte, 1835, as published in the binomen *Meladema coriacea* (specific name of the type species of *Meladema* Laporte, 1835) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name *Scutopterus* Dejean, 1833, as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2776

An application for the conservation of *Meladema* Laporte, 1835 was received from Dr Anders N. Nilsson (*University of Umeå, Umeå, Sweden*) on 1 June 1990. After correspondence the case was published in BZN **49**: 32–34 (March 1992). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

It was noted on the voting paper that the application had the support of Dr Hans Silfverberg (*Universitetets Zoologiska Museum, Helsingfors, Finland*).

It was also noted that, since Sharp's (1882) work, *Dytiscus lanio* Fabricius, 1775 had been included in *Meladema* Laporte, 1835 (paras. 4 and 5 of the application) and under the Code *Meladema* was a junior subjective synonym of *Scutopterus* Dejean, 1833. However, Nilsson, Roughley & Brancucci (1989, p. 314) had commented: 'The synonymy of *Meladema* Laporte and *Scutopterus* Dejean follows from our fixation of *Dytiscus lanio* Fabricius, 1775, as the type species of *Scutopterus*. This case should be referred to the Commission for a conservation of *Meladema* Laporte. To make this possible *Scutopterus* Dejean should be suppressed as an unused senior synonym'.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1992 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN **49**: 33. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1993 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 26: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Corliss, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 3: Bouchet, Cogger and Dupuis.

Dupuis commented that since *Meladema* and *Scutopterus* were subjective synonyms he would have preferred *Meladema* to be given precedence over *Scutopterus* rather than suppressing the latter name.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

coriacea, *Meladema*, Laporte, 1835, *Études entomologiques, ou description d'insectes nouveaux; et observations sur la synonymie*, part 1, p. 98.

Meladema Laporte, 1835, *Études entomologiques, ou description d'insectes nouveaux; et observations sur la synonymie*, part 1, p. 98.

Scutopterus Dejean, 1833, *Catalogue des coléoptères de la collection de M. le Comte Dejean*, Ed. 2, part 1, p. 54.